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*Smith, S. I.*—The abyssal decapod Crustacea of the *Albatross'* dredgings in the North Atlantic. Ext. Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1886.

*Whiteaves, J. F.*—Catalogue of Canadian Pinnipedia, Cetacea, fishes and marine Invertebrata. 1886. From the author.

*Bailey, F. H.*—Primary phenomenal astronomy, 1886. From the author.

*Merrill, G. P.*—On deposits of volcanic dust and sand in S. W. Nebraska.

*Riley, C. V.*—Annual presidential address to Entomological Society, Washington, 1884.

—The mildews of the grape vine, an effectual remedy for *Peronospora*, 1886. Both from the author.

*Hubbard, H. G.*—Insects affecting the orange. U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1885. From the author.

*Goode, G. B.*—Descriptive catalogue of exhibit of fisheries and fish-culture of U. S. A., made at the London Fisheries Exhibition, 1883.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

### GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.<sup>1</sup>

ASIA AND THE ISLANDS.—*The Hill country of Assam.*—Mr. Needham's excursion in the Abor hills from Sadiya, on the Upper Assam, brought that officer into close communication with the savage Abors, whom he credits with being truthful and courageous. The village of Membo is on a site well chosen for defensive purposes. It is well supplied with pure water, yet two-thirds of the inhabitants have goitre. The houses are built on terraces hundreds of feet above each other. They are all massive buildings, sixty to eighty feet long by twenty wide, and have a large sheltered veranda in front. The boards of the fronts are often three or four feet wide, and the roof is thatched with the split stems of a thorny plant. There are no partitions inside, but privacy is not needed by a people whose women wear only a very short petticoat. Goitre was not noticed at other Abor villages.

*Mr. Carles upon Korea.*—The May issue of the Proc. Roy. Geol. Soc. contains Mr. W. R. Carles' account of his recent journeys in Korea. There are records to prove that Korea was inhabited in the twelfth century B. C., when Ki-tze introduced from China the first elements of civilization. It is evident, notwithstanding the seclusion in which the people have lived, that many stocks, including the Caucasian, entered into its original composition.

Korea contains about 90,000 square miles, and is divided into eight provinces. At the northern extremity lies Paik-to-san, the great mountain on which are the sources of the Amnok (Yalu) and Tuman, the rivers which form its northern boundary. From this mountain a range runs southwards, at no great distance from the eastern coast except at the extreme south, where it trends inland. The eastern coast has but few islands and harbors, and no rivers of any importance except in Kyong-Sang, at the south,

<sup>1</sup> This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.

where the Naktong empties into the Broughton strait not far from the port of Fusan. The rise and fall of the tide along the eastern coast is very slight, at Gensan only two feet, while at Chemulpo, on the west coast, there is a rise and fall of thirty-eight feet. From Fusan westwards, and along the west coast, there are numberless islands and mud banks, interfering greatly with navigation. The Amnok is by far the grandest river, but the Tai-dong, Han (on which Soul is situated), Keum and Mok-pho are important.

The northern portions of Korea are mountainous and the scenery fine, but further south the mountains diminish until at length they are but low-lying hills.

There are in Soul few houses more than ten feet high, for even the dwellings of the better classes are low. The smallness of the houses seems to be compensated by the size and variety of the hats worn by the men. High conical hats, black or white, and of open texture, made of split bamboo, horse-hair, or wicker work, seem to be common, and some of these are topped with a little bee-hive covering of oil-paper to protect them from rain.

Drains are unknown in Soul, and the foul mass of decomposing matter lying on each side of the street is never cleaned save by a rain-storm. The houses are heated by a chamber below the winter rooms, at one side of which is the repository for the fuel, at the other a flue leading to the chimney, which is detached. At the ends of a house are the summer rooms, raised above the ground on corner-stones. The dwellings are built of wooden pillars supporting a heavy roof of wooden beams and tiles. The rafters are pared away so as to fit into sockets on the top of the pillars. The spaces between the posts are filled with masonry, the stones of which are often tied together with millet stalks, on account of the high price of lime. Eight feet by six feet, and five feet high, is a good room in a Korean cabin.

The road to Wi-ju, on the Amnok, is the high road of commerce north of Soul, as every track west of the mountains converges on it. Kai-sōng, Phyang-yang and Wi-ju, on this route, are three of the most important cities in the country after Soul.

Hill towns, or cities of refuge, guarded by priest-soldiers, are found all over Korea; and message that the coast is clear is sent to the capital every evening from all parts of the provinces by means of beacons.

Kai-sōng was the capital of the last dynasty, has about 30,000 people, and is the center of ginseng cultivation. Phyang-yang, upon the Tai-dong, is the most interesting town in Korea, and beautifully situated. Here are the grave and the portrait of Ki-tze.

Wi-ju (30,000) is the depot of all goods sent by the overland route to China. Communication between the two adjoining countries, even now that the strip of neutral ground once dividing

them has been incorporated with Manchuria, is limited to two points, Wi-ju on the west and Kyông-heung on the east. Gensan, at the entrance of Port Luzanef, on the east coast, has a neat Japanese town as well as a native one.

Bears, tigers, leopards, antelopes and several kinds of deer are plentiful in the mountains, but strangely enough wolves are not found south of the Amnok. Pigs, tiger-cats, badgers, foxes, beavers, otters and several martens are also found. Korea is rich in birds; many migratory kinds stop there on their passage; raptures are plentiful; swans, geese, mallards, mandarin ducks, teals, bustards, cranes, herons, egrets, curlew, snipe, etc., are abundant, and there are many woodpeckers.

Caste has great hold in Korea. No office of even local importance can be held except by nobles, and in the capital it is rare to find in office a man of even the second grade of nobility. Trade disqualifies nobles from the privileges of their rank, and some of these bear the most absolute poverty rather than enter into business. The middle class is small, consisting of doctors, painters, interpreters, scribes and the lower officials; all engaged in manual labor form the lower class, and below all others are butchers and tanners. Religion seems to be varied. The Confucian philosophy rules, but Buddhism and Taoism exist, and traces of some other faith appear in the *mirioks*, half-length figures carved in stone, with a cap different to that of Buddha.

*New Guinea.*—Mr. Forbes (March 10th) was in camp at Sugere, near Port Moresby, is on friendly terms with the natives, and intended to cross the Owen Stanley range when the rains ceased.

Captain Dickson reports that at Samoa haven, on the north coast, there are about fifty Germans, who appear to be healthy, and are on good terms with the natives, which is not the case at Finsch haven. Both these settlements are on small islands.

Captain John Strahan has re-ascended the Mai Kassa or Baxter river about 100 hundred miles, made several excursions to the interior, and discovered five smaller rivers between the Mai Kassa and the Gulf of Papua.

*Asiatic News.*—A. Konschin maintains that the Uzboi is not the old bed of the classic Oxus, but the result of the separation of the Aral from the Caspian sea, and of the overflow of the Aralo-sarykamish waters into the Caspian.

The Kermadec islands, which have recently been occupied by the English Government, are a group of rocky islets about 600 miles N. N. E. from the North island of New Zealand and due east of Norfolk island. The principal island is Raoul or Sunday island (29°, 12' S. lat., 178°, 15' W. long.) This is about twelve miles in circumference, rugged, and without an anchorage. It is covered with wood, and occupied only by a few white waifs and strays.

M. Merk has traveled in Seistan or Sistan, a district at the south-west angle of the Afghanistan. He reports that the Helmand rose to an unusual height last spring and flooded the Hanum through a trough leading to it from the Helmand. Forts, tombs, villages and pleasure-houses lie in ruins along this trough, and there are traces of the great Jui-karshasp canal. At Trakun was a fort in perfect preservation as though just abandoned. According to tradition the inhabitants left it about three generations ago.

AFRICA.—*Madagascar*.—An interesting account of the geography of Madagascar, which is claimed frankly as “une terre Française,” is given by M. Georges Richard in the *Revue Scientifique* of April 3d. The little explored central mountain mass contains several plateaux, while between the spurs which diverge seaward, and often form a series of platforms, are fertile valleys, watered by streams, few of which are navigable. The most considerable of these are on the west side, and are the Onilahy, the Mangoko, the Sigiboujy and the Ikiopé and Betsiboke, which unite and debouch in the bay of Bombetok. The mouths of the rivers upon the eastern coast are almost always obstructed by moving sands, and those of the smaller rivers are completely choked with the branches, tree trunks, etc., brought down in the wet season, so that they form extensive marshes—the source of the Madagascar fever. The climate of the interior is healthy.

*Algeria*.—The *Revue Scientifique* has recently published a series of articles upon the geography of Algeria, from the pen of M. A. LeChatelier. From these we learn that the southern frontier of the French possessions is fixed in the west and east by the Erg, a region of inextricably confused sand dunes of every form, passable only by certain lines. The ouedje, or region immediately north of the Erg, consists of a succession of ridges diminishing in height northward. Between these undulations are sandy bottoms or pebbly plains, with pasturage and water. The Erg in the eastern part of the boundary of Algeria is furrowed by depressions called *Gassi*, scooped out by the winds, but none of these, except that of Mokhauza or Ir'har'har, traverse the entire width of the Erg. The tribes under French rule do not in the east of Algeria advance beyond the northern borders of this sandy desert, while the tribes of the southern Sahara do not reach to its southern border. The western part of the southern border of Algiers is also formed by the Erg as far as the territories occupied by tribes which recognize the suzerainty of the Sultan of Morocco, but here the southern independent tribes advance to its crest, and the barrier is less complete. Between the eastern and western Erg are vast plains traversed by the oued Mya.

The oasis of Tuat has not been annexed by France, and M. Chatelier advocates its independence under French patronage.

The Sultan of Morocco exercises much influence, but there is really complete anarchy in this territory of about 400,000 souls. The power of this sultan in all the Mussulman countries west and south of Algeria is, by M. Chatelier, compared to that of the popes in Europe during the middle ages, but has been strengthened by the conquest of Algeria by the Christians.

*African News.*—Dr. Fischer, whose relief expedition was at the southern end of Victoria Nyanza in January last, states that Mr. Mackay, the English missionary in Uganda, had received a letter from Emir Bey, informing him that he and Dr. Junker, with Captain Cassati, were safe in Unyoro with King Kabarega. Negotiations with the King of Uganda for leave to cross Victoria Nyanza from Kagehi to Rubaya have fallen through, so it is not known what steps Dr. Fischer will take to reach the travelers. Dr. Oscar Lenz is endeavoring to reach the missing travelers by way of the Congo, has had several interviews with the great Zanzibar trader Tippu Tib, and is trying to recruit porters among the Swahili. His intention is to push forward to Lake Muta Nzige, and thence to the old Egyptian stations on the White Nile.—The French staff officers are busy continuing the Paris meridian to Laghouat, about 4° south of Algiers. When this work is finished the line will be measured with precision from the Orkneys to this locality.—Baron Schwerin, the Swedish explorer on the Congo, landed at the mouth of the Chiloango, whence he proceeded on foot to Banana by Cabinda and Cacongo, making many valuable observations on the shore lines and terraces of the gradually rising coast, and of the effects of the tide on the sandy fore shore. He also paid great attention to the influence of ocean currents upon the direction of the flow of rivers in their lowest course.—Mr. Last has traveled up the right bank of the Lujenda to its source. It is fertile and thickly peopled throughout. The natives all assert that the waters of Lake Kilwa rise every rainy season, and then drain or filter through the sandy mound which separates it from the Lujenda.

AMERICA.—*The Gran Chaco.*—Colonel Juan F. Cretz has summarized the work done in the Gran Chaco by the expedition sent by the Argentine Government at the end of 1884. The mean height of the Chaco above sea level is 984 feet, the Central Chaco being in general 100 to 130 feet higher than the southern. The district is one of modern alluvial formation; no rocks were found anywhere. Extensive primeval forests, with open grassy spaces between, are found in the interior of the Southern Chaco. Water is obtainable at or near the surface, except in the district between 27° 21' and 29° 05' S. lat., and 62° 04' and 62° 57' W. long., when the soil is sandy and impregnated with saltpeter.

The Bermejo has been explored throughout its whole length,

while the recent expedition explored the Pilcomayo for 350 miles upwards. The Rio Salado, between the Bermejo and the Pilcomayo, seems to come from the vast marshes formed by the latter between  $22^{\circ} 30'$  and  $23^{\circ} 30'$  S. lat. The water of the Salado is not drinkable, its banks are marshy, its breadth varies from 125 to 130 feet, and its depth averages six. On both sides are extensive forests and fine pastures. The expedition explored 20,000 square miles. The Central Chaco has an area of 41,780 square miles, and the Southern Chaco contains 60,000 square miles. There is a great variety of useful woods. The climate is reported to be healthy, the *chucho* or *ague* of Tacuman, Jujuy and other tropical regions being unknown.

OCEAN.—The *Enterprise*, Commander A. S. Barker, has run a line of deep-sea soundings from Wellington, N. Z., to the Straits of Magellan. At  $118^{\circ}$  W. long. the depth was but 1562 fathoms, the depth increasing east and west of this. This rise probably indicates a ridge from Easter island ( $27^{\circ} 09'$  S. lat.,  $109^{\circ} 25'$  W. long.) and Dougherty or Keates island ( $59^{\circ} 21'$  S. lat., and  $119^{\circ} 07'$  W. long.). This line of soundings runs very close to the ice-limit. The *Challenger* in 1875 ran a line in about  $40^{\circ}$  S. lat., and in the same year the German ship *Gazelle* executed a series of soundings between that of the *Challenger* and that of the *Enterprise*.

The U. S. Hydrographic Office has laid out a plan by which the entire Pacific, north of the *Challenger's* line, can be surveyed by lines run at short distances apart. This will be carried out from time to time by U. S. war vessels.

#### GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

SCHLOSSER ON THE PHYLOGENY OF THE UNGULATE MAMMALIA.<sup>1</sup>  
—We have in this memoir a comprehensive review of a subject which has received large accessions during the last decade. The discoveries made in North America and in France have given the opportunity for a summary of results, so that Dr. Schlosser's memoir is timely. The paper will prove of the greatest service to students of the subject who, for whatever reason, have not had access to all of the literature. The grasp of the subject displayed by the author is comprehensive, and his knowledge of details thorough. His immediate source of materials is the museum of the University of Munich, under the direction of the distinguished geologist and palæontologist, Professor Zittel. Besides 136 pages of text there are six well-executed lithographic plates. An appendix contains descriptions of four new genera and three new species of Artiodactyla.

<sup>1</sup> Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Stammesgeschichte der Hufthiere und Versuch einer Systematik der Paar- und Unpaarhufer. Von Max Schlosser. Morphologisches Jahrbuch, Leipzig, 1886.